

THE ST. LOUIS AGENCY ON TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Annual Report '09-'10



Francis G. Slay, Mayor



ST. LOUIS AGENCY ON TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

SLATE

MISSOURI CAREER CENTER

DOWNTOWN • CENTRAL WEST END

From Our Leadership

ON BEHALF OF THE St. Louis Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE), welcome to our **2009-2010 Annual Report.**

It is no exaggeration to say that this latest fiscal year represented a milestone in the history of our Career Centers.

New partnerships were forged, while existing alliances were renewed. SLATE-Downtown moved to a new facility at City Hall West. We administered one of our most successful summer youth employment programs ever. New services were developed and offered in response to the changing needs of our customers. Major federal funding was received that will help thousands of jobseekers across the greater St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area prepare for the careers of the 21st century. In short, SLATE and the St. Louis WIB excelled at our essential function: to serve as a lynchpin that aligns all the public, private and educational resources necessary to surmount the challenges presented by our rapidly changing knowledge-based economy.

Of course, these challenges will not be overcome overnight. It will require the application of substantial time and effort to ensure positive outcomes for the increased, almost unprecedented numbers of dislocated workers that access SLATE's services every day. We will continue to guide our customers, helping each and every one of them to navigate the uncertainty produced by today's oftentimes tumultuous job-market.

As the designated agencies for workforce development in the City of St. Louis, our ultimate goal is not simply job placement, but quality of life.



Jeff Serocke, WIB Chair



▲ Left to Right: Jeff Serocke, Michael K. Holmes

The ability to pursue rewarding and sustainable career paths confers a sense of vibrancy and pride to everyone we touch – whether youth or adults, small businesses or established companies, professionals or returning ex-offenders. In this sense, SLATE and the St. Louis WIB are playing our part in building a sense of community.

On behalf of every member of the St. Louis WIB and everyone at SLATE's Career Centers, we hope you enjoy this overview of our activities on behalf of jobseekers and employers throughout our service area. Going forward, we will do our utmost to find even more ways to serve our customers better.



▲ SLATE's new location on 1520 Market Street



Michael K. Holmes, SLATE Executive Director

Year End Highlights

THE SUCCESS OF URBANFORCE

Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the City of St. Louis UrbanFORCE matched **2,045** young men and women ages 14-24 with valuable

summer work experiences throughout the summer of 2009. The FORCE in UrbanFORCE stands for Furthering Our Reach Changes Everyone, and SLATE was proud to administer a program which opened the doors of dozens of employers to youth who were eager to learn more. The 2009 UrbanFORCE offered work experiences in almost every conceivable setting. Non-profit service providers, faith-based organizations, municipal courts, charitable foundations, utility companies, architectural firms and businesses large



and small all generously provided career exploration opportunities for St. Louis City youth.

The '09 UrbanFORCE summer youth employment program was geared primarily to low income youth in the City of St. Louis; 5% of participants did not have to meet the low income requirement if they demonstrated at least one significant barrier to employment. Every department at SLATE was involved in the success of the UrbanFORCE. Frontline staff fielded numerous requests for information by phone and in person. The Fiscal Department worked nonstop to process the large participant payroll as rapidly as possible. The Business De-

Left to Right: ►
Tarallyn Anderson, SLATE counselor and Michael K. Holmes, SLATE Executive Director, perform mock interviews with summer job seekers Johnina Roberts and Demeisha Jones, while Mayor Francis Slay looks on.





“This is an experience and opportunity that will last a lifetime.” ~ **FALON RUSH, URBANFORCE PARTICIPANT**

velopment department identified and recruited potential employers throughout the community, hosted informational sessions, collected timesheets, and facilitated preparatory job readiness workshops. Through SLATE's partnership with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), **500** youth were placed into summer employment and UrbanFORCE was able to directly hire a number of youth volunteers from the Career Assistance Program (CAP) as paid staff.

The overall success of UrbanFORCE is measurable in many ways. As a result of the program, a total of **\$3.3 million** was reinvested back into the local economy. The program received the prestigious Excellence in Customer Service Award from Governor Jay Nixon among other forms of recognition. UrbanFORCE served more youth in 2009 than any other summer employment program throughout Missouri. Partnerships were strengthened with businesses, schools and other service providers. But of course, the true measure of its success was the program's ability to motivate and inspire the workforce of tomorrow. As a direct result of the UrbanFORCE summer jobs program, hundreds of young people obtained a GED, pursued entry into college, or obtained unsubsidized employment. Their future prospects, and that of our community, are now on a more solid footing.

Hear Our Stories: **Youth**

HISTORIC SITE OPENS DOORS

Keith Simms came to SLATE Missouri Career Center in the spring of 2009 to enroll in the City of St. Louis UrbanFORCE. Over the course of the next year he gained workplace knowledge and confidence through a series of temporary, part-time jobs.

After hearing about Governor Nixon's State Parks Youth Corps program, he returned to SLATE to attend a job readiness workshop and mock interview session held on May 13, 2010. Later, with the assistance of SLATE's Youth Services and Business Services Departments, he applied for and was accepted into the State Parks Youth Corps, performing maintenance and landscaping at the Scott Joplin House State Historic Site on Delmar. There, he learned to work in a group setting and learned new skills such as proper planting and watering, construction, and outdoor painting. Keith's hard work over the summer paid off when he was offered, and accepted, a permanent position by the Scott Joplin House. Keith Simms, who is now pursuing a career in information technology, was honored with an invitation to attend the recent Governor's Mansion Dinner on behalf of the St. Louis Region's State Parks Youth Corps.



▲ Left to Right: First Lady Georganne Nixon, SLATE Youth Services Manager Alice Prince, Scott Joplin House representative Almetta Jordan, Keith Simms, Governor Jay Nixon.

CAREER JUMPSTARTS AT AMEREN UE



Brandon Dyer, an UrbanFORCE participant, was a student in the skilled craft education program at Construction Career Center. In the summer of 2009, Brandon was hired by Ameren UE to work full time with benefits at their Meramec Power Plant. Brandon was provided with both technical training and a mentor for guidance and support.

Brandon was hired by Ameren UE as a laborer, and continues to attend night school in order to sharpen his job skills and ensure a sustainable career with Missouri's largest electric utility. Brandon told us, "I feel blessed to be in the position I'm in... right now the sky is the limit." Brandon was also featured in an interview broadcast on KMOV News Channel 4.

THE SUCCESS OF OUR PROGRAMS/PARTNERSHIPS



◀ *Left to Right: Mayor Slay, RCGA President & CEO Dick Fleming, Michael K. Holmes announce the Graduate! St. Louis Workforce Consortium*

In June 2010, SLATE was awarded a DOL community-based job training grant totaling \$4.4 million in order to launch a regional project, the **Graduate! St. Louis Workforce Consortium**. The Consortium will prepare the bi-state St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) workforce to meet employer demands for qualified staff in the healthcare, information technology (IT) and emerging green industries. This unique, regional, collaborative partnership between *SLATE, St. Louis Community College, St. Charles Community College, Jefferson College, East Central College, Southwestern Illinois College, the RCGA* and various Workforce Investment Boards will provide 2,200 participants with degrees or certificates of value and successfully place an estimated 1,500 of the program graduates into jobs.

In late 2009, the *Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED)* received a \$1.2 million State Labor Market Information (LMI) Improvement grant. As a result, SLATE worked closely with DED, Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC), a variety of other *Workforce Investment Boards* in Missouri and Illinois, and with the *St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association (RCGA)*, to perform lo-

cal analysis of emerging green industries and job opportunities. This statewide project provides access to green careers through assessments, skill lists and training information.

SLATE's Re-Entry One-Stop (REOS) Career Center celebrated its 1-year anniversary of continuous, collaborative actions that confront recidivism in our community. In its first full fiscal year of operations, REOS served approximately 1,700 ex-offenders improving public safety and leading ex-offenders to self-sufficiency. In addition, REOS has established a GED Program, implemented a *Department of Justice (DOJ)* grant to improve outcomes for *St. Louis Drug Court* clients, and facilitated working partnerships with *UMC Parkview* and *U.S. Probation and Parole's Pathways to Change* program.

In 2010, the *St. Louis City WIB, SLATE* and *St. Louis Community College* welcomed **Unisys Federal Systems** to the local business community. Unisys staff worked closely with SLATE and our partners to announce the creation of a major new Application Modernization Center of Excellence (AMCOE) in St. Louis City; it will create 300 IT jobs locally over the next two years. While waiting for their new facility to be readied, senior Unisys Federal Systems staff were temporarily housed at SLATE's Downtown location.

After the establishment of the **On-the-Job Training (OJT)** program in early 2010, SLATE's Business Development Department allocated over \$481,000 to retain highly qualified researchers and scientists in the biotech fields who might otherwise have relocated to other cities. The average salary for each was \$60,000.

SLATE has been a long time partner of the *St. Louis Area Missouri Employer Committee (MEC)* which connects local businesses with the Missouri Division of Workforce Development (DWD). Three SLATE staff members served on the St. Louis MEC and planned human resource seminars on topics of interest to area HR professionals, business owners and managers.

Together with the *Division of Workforce Development (DWD)*, the *St. Louis County Department of Human Services* and *Workforce Development Division*, SLATE hosted a **“Scientific Talent Open House,”** that encouraged St. Louis area job seekers with backgrounds in science and technology to network with an array of potential employers. Hundreds of participants expanded their connections and learned about continuing education options or starting a new business, fulfilling Gov. Nixon's vision of a Missouri economy that embraces cutting-edge technology and 21st century jobs.

The SLATE Employment Transition Series (SETS) continued with a variety of professional development events for local job seekers. Each two-hour SETS event provided in-depth presentations and Q&A with such employers as *Barnes-Jewish Hospital (BJC)*, *Wells Fargo*, *MasterCard*, and *Enterprise Fleet Management*. Over the course of the fiscal year, more than 500 attendees were able to hone their skills, strength and talents and learn about professional opportunities from 30 participating companies in such sectors as healthcare, education, finance, information technology and manufacturing.

SLATE continues to work closely with our partner *St. Patrick Center*, the largest provider of homeless services in Missouri. Last year, the two organizations debuted the Professionals in Transition Career Center at St. Patrick Center's downtown headquarters. The Center moved to its current location in the United Way building soon after. SLATE staff also participated in the highly successful weekly **St. Patrick Center/**

Celtic Creation GO! Network, which has provided a unique, holistic blend of personal and professional support topics and resources to over 3,000 dislocated workers since its inception in early 2009.

From late 2009 through the spring of 2010, SLATE provided space and resources to the 2010 *U.S. Census* to aid in recruitment, training and testing hundreds of census takers. These individuals, part of the hundreds of thousands needed nationwide, helped locate households and conduct brief personal interviews. SLATE is proud to have partnered with the Census to ensure an accurate and fair count of residents in the City of St. Louis and surrounding area.

SLATE was privileged to partner with the **Surgical Technology Program** at *St. Louis Community College-Forest Park*. Their Allied Health Department assisted 13 students to become qualified Surgical Technologists. SLATE funded tuition costs and certification exam fees in their final semester, and is pleased to report that all 13 successfully completed the program in the summer of 2010. Nearly 80 percent passed their exams on the first try, and all are currently employed in their new profession.

Hear Our Stories: **Employer**

“SLATE did an excellent job identifying qualified candidates and working to understand our needs. I would recommend them to any business looking to hire and will definitely use them in the future.” ~ **DAVE KENNEDY, U.S. POLYMERS ACCUREZ, LLC**

SLATE's Youth Services Department sponsored two events: **Project Ranken Tech Day** and the **St. Louis Community College Career Fair**. These events increased youth awareness of post-secondary education opportunities and highlighted their career options. The Department also initiated a **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) Day** to help interested students apply for and acquire college financial aid.

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Career Assistance Program (CAP)

led Missouri with the largest number of TANF participants. Services were provided to 3,161 individuals as a result of SLATE's joint effort with *Better Family Life*, *Employment Connection* and *St. Louis Community College*. From this number, 1,237 entered full-time employment, 466 received vocational training, 183 entered part-time employment, and 564 received personalized job search assistance.

Hear Our Stories: **Adult**



**SLATE GIVES EX-OFFENDER
A SECOND CHANCE**

Nikita Smith is an ex-offender willing to move forward despite life's challenges and temporary setbacks. Before being referred to SLATE's Re-Entry One Stop (REOS) Career Center, Nikita lived at a half-way house. The guidance and support he received helped him recommit to his professional goal of becoming a truck driver. Demonstrating persistence and dedication while attending the *New-Way Truck Driving Training Program*, Nikita excelled and was honored as the head of his class. After successfully completing his training, Nikita was able to find sporadic employment, but wanted more. He returned to Memphis, his home town, drove his 18 wheeler back to

St. Louis City and was soon contracting his services to make long haul interstate deliveries. Nikita, now an established entrepreneur, has his own residence. He told SLATE that he is grateful for this second chance, and the opportunity to "pursue my passion".

The St. Louis WIB



▲ WIB members at the swearing ceremony, Aug. 18, 2010

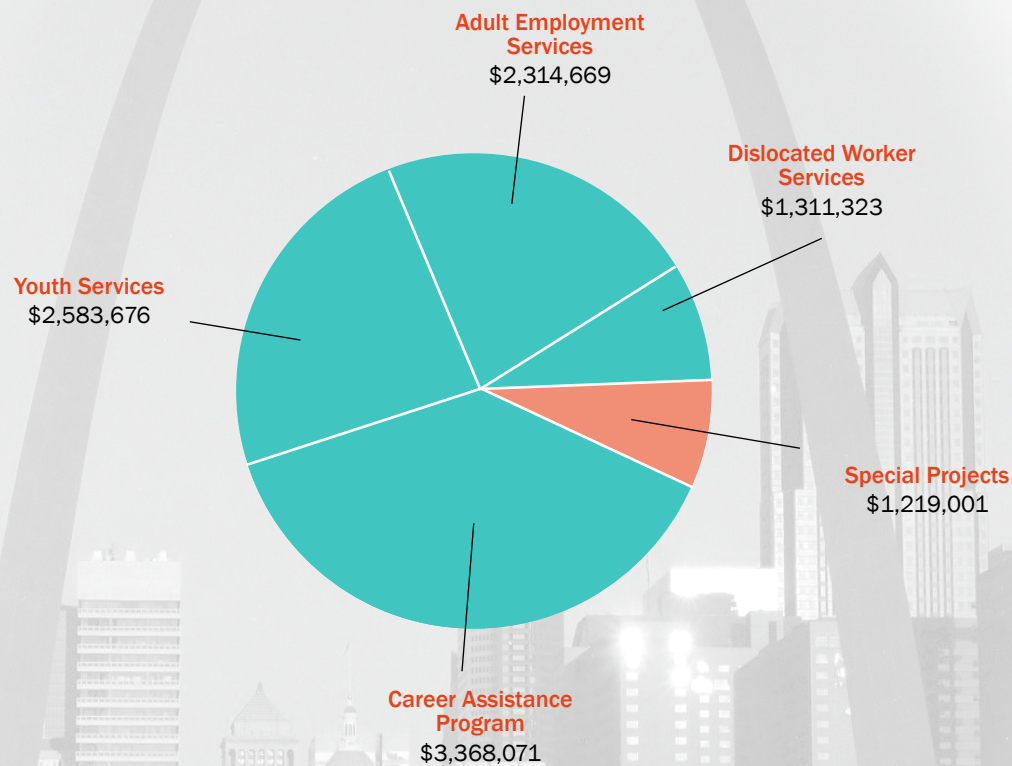
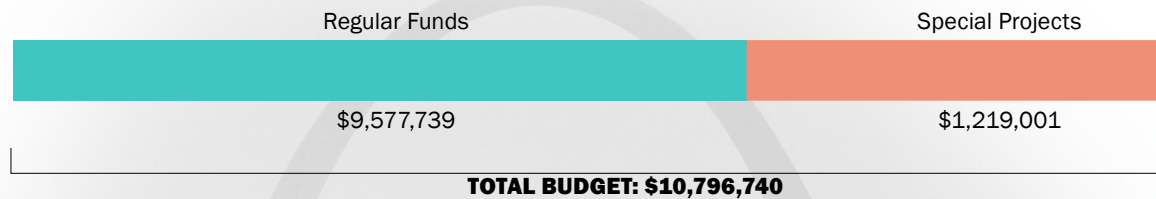
WIB OFFICERS AND MEMBERS '09-'10

Jeff Serocke, Chair	Renaissance Grand/Renaissance Suites St. Louis
Lydia Padilla, Vice Chair	TRC Staffing Services, Inc.
Donny Carroll, Secretary	SLATE Missouri Career Center, Division of Workforce Development
Patrick Bannister	St. Louis Development Corporation
John Beatty	Barnes-Jewish Hospital
Lynn Beauchaine	Lynn Beauchaine & Associates, Inc.
Kelley Bernardi	St. Louis Agency on Training & Employment
Lewis Chartock	MERS/Missouri Goodwill Industries
Darryl Chatman	Armstrong Teasdale LLP
Pat Coleman	Behavioral Health Response

Ray Creely	Creely Consulting
Michelle Darden	St. Louis Office for DD Resources
Eddie Davis	Center for the Acceleration of African American Business - St. Louis Black Leadership Roundtable
Betsy Finnegan	Ameren UE
Ed Hamilton	Brown & Kortkamp Real Estate
Cindy Hess	St. Louis Community College
Gregory Hill	Westaff
Russell Illy	Triad Manufacturing
Katherine Joslin	Bethesda Health Group, Inc.
Jane Kerlagon	Special School District - Technical Education Division
Dale Kreienkamp	Lutheran Senior Services
Frank Logan	St. Louis Public Schools
Cheryl Lovell	St. Louis Housing Authority
Herman Noah	Consultant Services
Willard Reeves	The Human Development Corporation
Kevin Riggs	SNR Denton US LLP
Kevin Schaedler	Habitata Building Products LLC
Jeather Smith	Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Leonard Toenjes	Associated General Contractors of St. Louis
Michael Walter	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1439
Ohala Ward	Near Southside Employment Coalition
David Wright	MO Division of Employment Security
Michael Williams	Unisys Corporation

The Numbers

FINANCIALS: FISCAL YEAR: JULY 1, 2009-JUNE 30, 2010

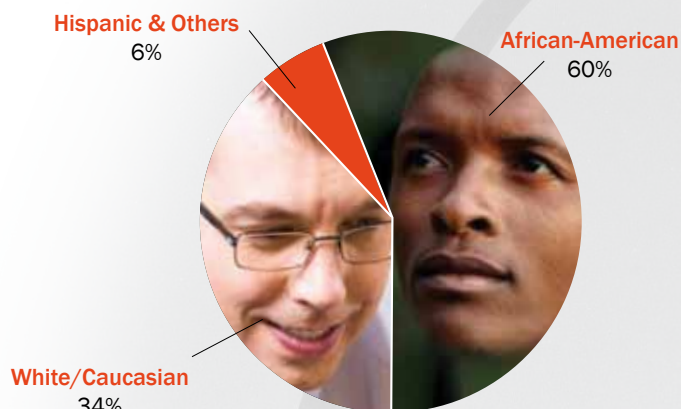


PERFORMANCE: FISCAL YEAR: JULY 1, 2009-JUNE 30, 2010

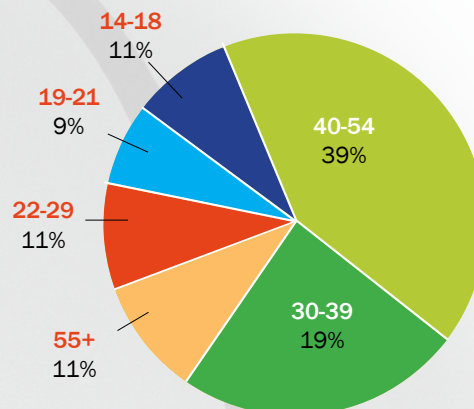
23,606	Job Seekers Served	743	Employers Served (a 50 percent increase over the number served in FY '08-'09)
15,344	Job Seekers Placed Into Jobs		
81%	Still Employed After Three Months		
500	Year-Round Youth Served	1,664	Job Orders Filled
310	Youth with positive exit outcome, such as employment or training	3,161	TANF participants served, 45 percent found employment
988	Attended SLATE workshops	375	Job Seekers assisted by SLATE partner, the St. Louis Construction Orientation Intake Center; 103 became employed in the construction industry
5,922	Visits to GED Lab		

Our Clients:

PERCENTAGE BY RACE



PERCENTAGE BY AGE



PERCENTAGE BY GENDER



DEMOGRAPHICS: ST. LOUIS CITY

POPULATION
(AS OF APRIL 2010):
319,294

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE:
157,399

UNEMPLOYED:
19,203

'09-'10 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(12-MONTH AVERAGE):
12.2%

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME:
\$33,425

PER CAPITA INCOME:
\$20,818

PERCENTAGE PERSONS
IN POVERTY:
26.5%

NUMBER OF BUSINESSES:
7,599

Annual Report prepared by:

The St. Louis Agency on
Training and Employment
(SLATE)

- 1520 Market St., 3rd Floor,
St. Louis, MO 63103
- Phone: (314) 589.8000
TTY: (314) 622.4383
- Web: www.stlworks.com